THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Numbers of cases for appointment on compassionate grounds considered and rejected in Western Command during March, 1997 are as follows:—

Service	No. of cases considered	No. of cases rejected
(i) Western Command Army (Including Inter Services Organisations)	21	17
(ii) Western Naval Command	5	Nil
(iii) Western Air Command	11	Nil

(b) The various Service HQrs/Inter Services Organisation under the control of this Ministry and their subordinate offices consider these cases at their level at periodical intervals. No centralised tally of these in kept in the Ministry. However, these agencies have not reconsidered rejected cases and have not offered them appointment during March, 1997.

(c) and (d) Action, as per the guidelines issued by DOP&T from time to time, is taken in such cases and appointments are made upto a maximum of 5% of vacancies falling under direct recruitment quota in any Group 'C' or 'D' post. While considering the applications for compassionate appointments, the benefits received by the family unedr CGEIS, Gratuity, encashment of leave, Family Pension etc. are considered. While working the priority list, due regard is also given to the number of dependents the assets and liabilities left by the deceased Government servant and the present income of the earning members.

Telephone connections on demand

*318. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non OYT General category telephone connections are available on demand in some cities of the country;

(b) if so, the names of such cities, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to provide Non-OYT General category telephone connections on demand in more cities during the second half of 1997 and also in 1998;

(d) if so, the names of such cities, year-wise, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. At present Non-OYT General category telephone connections are available on demand only in some exchange areas of certain cities.

During the current financial year a target of 29 lakhs new telephone connections has been set. With this the waiting list as on 31st March, 1997 is likely to be cleared in some of the cities of the country.

Telephone on demand is likely to be available by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan in the country with private sector supplementing the efforts of DOT.

Violence by extremists

*319. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether extremist violence continues to be a big threat to the country;